BGKT Buddhist Group of Kendal (Theravada) Ketumati Buddhist Vihara Precepts, Certificates, Badges and Sashes

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The unique aspect of the relationship between Ketumati Buddhist Vihara Manchester England UK and BGKT Buddhist Group of Kendal (Theravada) and the Keswick Buddhist Group has been in relation to the development of Precepts and Dhamma Teaching in the West. A decision was made that certificates signed by Venerable Piyatissa would be presented to those taking *Panca Sila* (The Five Precepts) and receiving a Buddhist name; and a certificate and a cream sash would be presented to those taking *Ajivatthamaka Sila* (Eight Precepts with Right Livelihood as the Eighth) for Life. These sashes must be worn when they administer the *Panca Sila* (The Five Precepts if a Bhikkhu (Monk) or Bhikkhuni/Ayya (Nun) is not present. Dhamma Teachers Certificates and badges would be presented to Sangha Authorized Dhamma Teachers.

Ketumati Buddhist Vihara Manchester Vesak Celebrations 2006

At the 2006 Vesak celebrations at Ketumati Buddhist Vihara Manchester, the Abbot, Venerable Piyatissa presented *Sangha Authorized Dhamma Teacher* badges to four lay teachers. Cream sashes were presented to Upasakas Sumedha, Mahinda and Punna who undertook the *Ajivatthamaka Sila* for Life with the Abbot himself as Preceptor, and to Bodhicarini Upasika Jayasili. These sashes are to be worn when they administer the *Panca Sila* (Five Precepts) should a Bhikkhu (Monk) or Ayya (Nun) not be available. (In June 2007 Upasika Panna received the Eight Lifetime Precepts (an expansion of the *Ajivatthamaka Sila*) from Bhante Henepola Gunaratana Maha Thera at Gaia House Devon, and a cream sash from Venerable Piyatissa.)

The 2006 Vesak celebrations included distribution of the booklet: *Requirements and Ceremonies for the Five Precepts (Panca Sila), The Eight Precepts with Right Livelihood as the Eighth (Ajivatthamaka Sila), Dhamma Teachers Certificate*, by Ketumati Buddhist Vihara and BGKT was also distributed at the Vesak celebrations. This was subsequently published for world-wide distribution, by the Corporate Body of the Buddha Educational Foundation, Taiwan, as part of the 2007 edition of Introducing Buddhism.

Bibliography

Books

Introducing Buddhism

Introducing Buddhism by Venerable Dr Balangoda Ananda Maitreya Mahanayaka Thera Abhidhaja Maharatthaguru Aggamaha Pandita DLitt DLitt (1896-1998) and Jacquetta Gomes Bodhicarini Upasika Jayasili. *Introducing Buddhism* was originally published by The Buddhist Society London in 1988, to accompany The Buddhist Society's Introducing Buddhism Course, on which Jacquetta Gomes was one of the teachers. *Introducing Buddhism* has subsequently been published by Buddhist organisations in England, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Taiwan, and the USA. *Introducing Buddhism* is available on several websites including Access to Insight and Google Books. *Introducing Buddhism* was launched by the BCC Buddhist Cultural Centre in Sri Lanka with 24 other books under the patronage of Venerable Dr K. Sri Dhammananda Chief Sangha Nayaka of Malaysia and Singapore, in December 1997.

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Articles

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